

OCTOBER, 2022

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# TECH TALK

*A GNLU Centre for Law and Technology Initiative*

Vol. 4 Issue 10

## **GOOGLE FACES \$25.4 BILLION DAMAGES CLAIMS IN UK, AND DUTCH COURTS OVER ADTECH PRACTICE:**

A law firm acting on behalf of publishers will soon bring two lawsuits in British and Dutch courts against Alphabet unit Google, seeking damages in the amount of up to 25 billion euros (\$25.4 billion) for its digital advertising practices. Antitrust authorities have lately begun to investigate Google's AdTech as a result of publisher complaints. While the European Commission and its UK counterpart are looking into whether Google's AdTech division offers them an unfair edge over competitors and advertisers, the French competition watchdog imposed a 220-million-euro fine on the company last year. "It is time that Google owns up to its responsibilities and pays back the damages it has caused to this important industry. That is why today we are announcing these actions across two jurisdictions to obtain compensation for EU and UK publishers," Damien Geradin at law firm Geradin Partners said in a statement on Tuesday. The impending cases were criticised by Google, which said that it collaborates constructively with publishers across Europe. "This lawsuit is speculative and opportunistic. When we receive the complaint, we'll fight it vigorously," a spokesperson said. The British lawsuit filed with the UK Competition Appeal Tribunal aims to obtain compensation for all website owners who display banner ads, including conventional publishers. Britain has an opt-out regime. The Dutch claim is open to publishers affected by Google's actions. Harbour is providing funds for both lawsuits.

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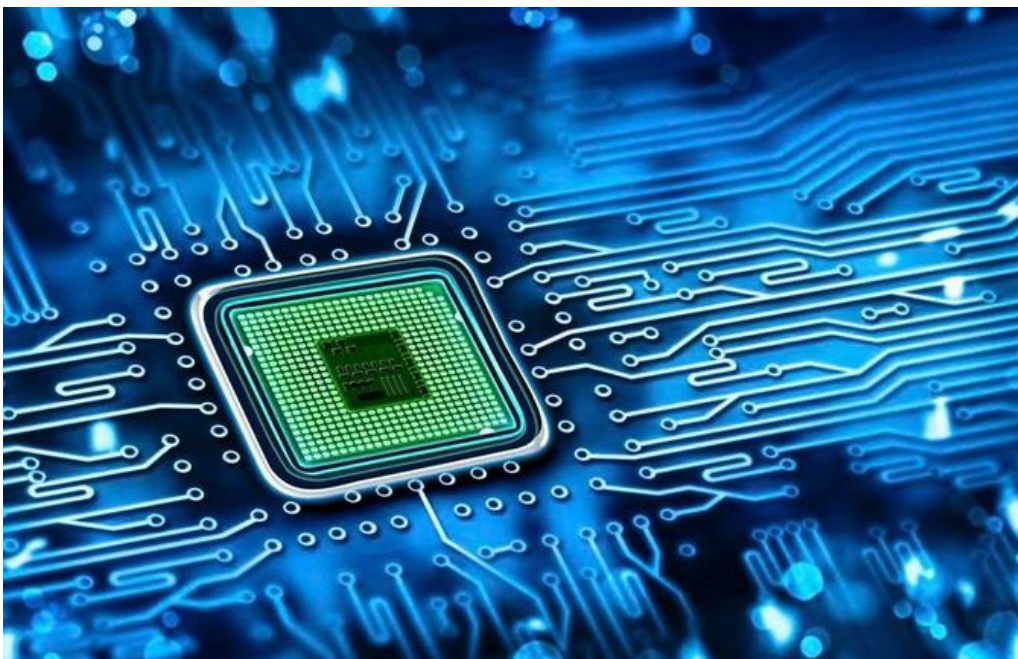


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## US CLAMPS DOWN ON CHINA'S ACCESS TO CHIP TECHNOLOGY WITH SWEEPING NEW EXPORT RULES:

In an effort to severely restrict Beijing's access to critical technologies required for everything from supercomputing to guiding weapons, the Biden administration has imposed broad new restrictions on the sale of semiconductor technology to China. The package of restrictions, made public by the Commerce Department, is primarily intended to halt the advancement of Chinese military projects, which use supercomputing to model nuclear explosions, guide hypersonic weapons, and establish cutting-edge networks for the surveillance of minorities and dissidents, among other activities. According to technology experts, the restrictions look to impose the broadest export prohibitions enacted in a decade. Although comparable to the Trump administration's crackdown against telecom giant Huawei, the new regulations have a much broader reach and impact on other Chinese firms. And unlike the Trump administration's strategy, which was perceived as aggressive but haphazard, the rules appear to establish a more comprehensive policy that will halt cutting-edge exports to a variety of Chinese technology companies and hinder China's developing capacity to manufacture advanced chips on its own. Companies won't be able to sell China advanced computing chips, machinery for creating chips, or other goods unless they have special permission. According to a senior administration official, most of those permits would be rejected, but specific shipments to facilities run by American businesses or allied countries will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

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# THE TAMIL NADU PROHIBITION OF ONLINE GAMBLING AND REGULATION OF ONLINE GAMES ORDINANCE, 2022 INTRODUCED:

The Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Ordinance, 2022 was promulgated on October 3, 2022 to prohibit online gambling and online games of chance played for stakes. The Ordinance bans online gambling, which is defined as wagering or betting and includes playing online games of chance for money or other stakes. Online games of chance are those where: (i) both an element of chance and skill are involved, and the element of chance dominates over the element of skill, (ii) games are presented as games of chance, (iii) the element of chance can only be eliminated by superlative skill, or (iv) games involve cards, dice, or wheel which work on random event generators. The Ordinance establishes and empowers the Tamil Nadu Gaming Authority to identify and recommend online games of chance to be prohibited. Two such games that have been specified in the Schedule and are banned are Rummy and Poker.

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## THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AMENDS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RULES:

The Indian government has announced changes to its information technology rules that will apply to social media companies, a move likely to be seen as reining in big tech firms. Under the amended rules, which were announced on Friday, a government panel will be formed to hear complaints from users about content moderation decisions by social media platforms. This effectively gives the government control over the content moderation decisions that social media companies make. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has had strained relations with many big tech companies, and New Delhi has been tightening regulation of firms such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Social media firms are already required to have an in-house grievance redress officer and to designate executives to coordinate with law enforcement officials.

Under the amended rules, the companies would be required to acknowledge complaints from users within 24 hours and resolve them within 15 days or 72 hours in case of an information takedown request. The government panel will consist of a chairperson and two full-time members, of which two will be independent members.

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